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Readers of this volume are advised to omit the essay at the end, entitled "The Rule of Phase Applied to History." Henry Adams had all the virtues of the great amateur—penetration, aloofness, style. It is sad to record that in the end he did not escape the pitfall of most amateurs. He began taking himself seriously, and that as a prophet!

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The Defensor Pacis of Marsiglio of Padua. By EPHRAIM EMERTON. (Harvard Theological Studies, Volume VIII. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. ii, 81.)

Professor Emerton has, within the compass of some eighty odd pages, given us the best extended summary in English of the political and ecclesiastical theories of Marsiglio of Padua. To the task which the author set for himself he brought a lifetime study of history, particularly along theological lines, and this has enabled him to make those frequent comparisons and illustrations which others less well schooled would find themselves unable to do. The pleasing style in which the study is written interests the reader in a subject which most scholars make dry and uninteresting. No excuse now ought to exist to justify the author's statement that "the name of Marsiglio is unknown to most persons outside the narrow circle of students of political theory."

Those students of the political theories and issues of our day, who seem to feel that all thought about the state that is worthy of consideration is to be studied only in works of the last half century, or perhaps a century earlier, would do well to get a copy of this small book, and learn what a fourteenth century Italian had to say about the powers of the people, their rulers, and relations to each other. To historians, who feel that the weighing of historical evidence is a nineteenth century invention, it will be of interest to see how such subjects as the Papal Supremacy, the Donation of Constantine, and others, are dealt with in an age when scientific historians were not supposed to exist.

It is not to be expected that within the confines of so small a volume every possible misunderstanding of the subject could be provided against. For example, there is an implication (p. 20) that Marsiglio disappeared from the scene of action much earlier than he actually did. Even Valois concedes that he wrote a tract on divorce in 1342,

and that he may have written at least the last passage of his *Defensor Pacis Minor* in the same year. Marsiglio's "medical training" is mentioned rather abruptly (p. 28), and the reader given no earlier indication that he was a physician.

On page 39 is to be found an extremely clever piece of linguistic work which has revealed the meaning of those hitherto puzzling words "*alto passu*."

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American Democracy versus Prussian Marxism. A Study in the Nature and Results of Purposive or Beneficial Government. By CLARENCE F. BIRDSEYE. (New York: Fleming H. Revell Company. Pp. 371.)

In this compact little volume, rich in well selected facts and information throughout, the author has performed a useful service. The conception of socialism or of Marxism as a system of tyranny, as Bebel, Hyndman and their ilk aver, is not new; this new laurel for Prussianism is somewhat novel.

The liberal aspect of democracy in respect to many types of action is familiar. The idea, however, of the reach of democracy in allowing to the individual the basic right to own and operate in industry, compared to the Marxian tyranny that denies this basic right, attracts attention. Mr. Birdseye further contrasts Bolshevism, Spartacism and the I. W. W., "the legitimate brats of Prussian Marxism," with the other "members of the trinity, Prussian militarism and Prussian commercialism." The latter are at least orderly, impartial to all classes and prosperous. Marxism as operating in Russia offers none of these. In sharp contrast to these two systems stands American constructive, purposive democracy. The author seizes strong ground in stating that "Marxism like democracy has laws of life and growth" and will develop according to type. The greater part of the volume is occupied in tracing the practical results of American purposive government leading to the general welfare. Two chapters briefly relate Marxian methods to Prussian methods of coercion and terrorism.

In chapters eight to nineteen the actual achievements in welfare work and public control are set forth illustrative of the value of the guiding and stimulating influences of purposive government. Chapters twenty and twenty-one emphasize the need of reasonable restraint